

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP,FRANCK,ANTONIO,UN,CT,KN,US

SUBJECT:CAR FOREIGN MINISTER'S CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY

SUMMARY: ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE NGUINDO AND DIRECTOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS GUY NINGATA, CAR FOREIGN MINISTER ANTONIO
FRANCK MADE HIS INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY
INGERSOLL ON OCTOBER 9. HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION INCLUDED
DISCUSSION OF CAR SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY KOREAN RESOLUTION,
US-CAR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND GOCAR EXPROPRIATION OF
TEXACO AND MOBIL MARKETING OPERATIONS. FRANCK INDICATED
THAT CAR WOULD BY NO MEANS ABANDON ITS SUPPORT FOR ROK AT
THE UNGA AND WOULD JOIN THE US IN LOBBYING FOR SUPPORT
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ON PROCEDURAL VOTE TO HAVE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION CONSIDERED

FIRST. HE EXPRESSED GOCAR'S DESIRE TO HAVE US AMBASSADOR NAMED TO BANGUI AND CITED GOCAR'S EFFORTS TO FIND SUITABLE CANDIDATE AS ITS AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON. IN RESPONSE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DEMARCHE, FRANCK EXPRESSED DISMAY AT GOCAR'S LACK OF SUBSTANTIVE ACTION TOWARD COMPENSATING TEXACO AND MOBIL FOR MARKETING OPERATIONS EXPROPRIATED IN 1974. HE PROMISED TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH PRESIDENT BOKASSA UPON RETURNING TO BANGUI. MEMCON BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES. END SUMMARY.

1. KOREAN ISSUE AT UNGA: FRANCK STATED THAT CAR'S CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE FRIENDLY KOREAN RESOLUTION AND OF ROK'S ENTRY INTO THE UNITED NATIONS WAS PERSONALLY ORDERED BY BOKASSA. GOCAR'S SUPPORTIVE ACTIONS BASED ON LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP WITH SOUTH KOREA AND A FIRM BELIEF IN THE JUSTNESS OF ITS CAUSE. FRANCK SAID BY NO MEANS WOULD GOCAR ABANDON THE ROK AND ITS SUPPORTERS AT THE UNGA. HE AGREED WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY THAT CAR SHOULD JOIN IN LOBBYING ON THE PROCEDURAL VOTE TO HAVE THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION BROUGHT TO A VOTE BEFORE THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT HAVE TO RETURN TO BANGUI BEFORE VOTING ON THE KOREAN ISSUE TAKES PLACE, HE WOULD RETURN TO NEW YORK TO BE ON HAND FOR THE VOTE. FRANCK SAID SUPPORT FOR ROK ENTRY INTO THE UN WAS WANING; THEREFORE, US, CAR AND OTHERS MUST INCREASE THEIR EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION.

2. US-CAR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: NOTING THAT AMEMBASSY BANGUI AND CAR EMBASSY WASHINGTON ARE PRESENTLY HEADED BY CHARGES, FRANCK STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF NEITHER COUNTRY GIVING IMPRESSION OF DOWNGRADING IMPORTANCE OF OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS BY LEAVING THE AMBASSADORIAL POSTS VACANT OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD. HE EXPRESSED GOCAR'S HOPE THAT A NEW US AMBASSADOR WOULD SOON BE NAMED TO BANGUI. HE PROMISED TO DISCUSS WITH BOKASSA THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CAR AMBASSADOR TO US. AGREEING WITH FRANCK'S CONCERN, DEPUTY SECRETARY INFORMED HIM THAT US PREPARATIONS FOR NOMINATING AN AMBASSADOR TO CAR WERE WELL ADVANCED.

3. EXPROPRIATION ISSUE: DEPUTY SECRETARY APPRISED FRANCK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF US CONCERN OVER LACK OF PROGRESS BY GOCAR TOWARD COMPENSATING MOBIL AND TEXACO FOR MARKETING OPERATIONS EXPROPRIATED IN 1974. INGERSOLL TOLD FONMIN THAT US CURRENTLY PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION IN JANUARY 1976 A LIST OF COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR GENERALIZED TRADE PREFERENCES (GSP). DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT NEW US LEGISLATION MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN ON GSP LIST COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT TAKEN APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE STEPS TO COMPENSATE

EXPROPRIATED US COMPANIES. HE SAID GOCAR MUST TAKE POSITIVE AND TIMELY ACTION TO AVOID THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE LEGISLATION. FRANCK REFERRED TO GOCAR'S INACTION ON EXPROPRIATION ISSUE AS AN UNNECESSARY AND IMPROPER ANNOYANCE IN US-CAR RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT GOCAR HAD BENEFITED FROM US PATIENCE IN THIS ISSUE LONG ENOUGH, "ONE YEAR AND A HALF OF SILENCE ON OUR PART IS TOO MUCH". HE SAID THAT IN THE INTEREST OF CAR'S NATIONAL DIGNITY AND PROPER RELATIONS VIS-A-VIS ITS FRIENDS, IT WAS NECESSARY THAT CAR DEVISE A PLAN FOR TIMELY LIQUIDATION OF THE COMPENSATION CLAIMS. HE UNDERTOOK TO RAISE ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT BOKASSA AND TO URGE THAT GOCAR DO AN IMMEDIATE STUDY OF THE CLAIMS TO ESTABLISH LEGITIMACY AND THEN DEVELOP A PLAN FOR LIQUIDATION OF THE DEBT EITHER BY LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS OR IN INSTALLMENTS.

COMMENT: FRANCK WAS IMPRESSIVE AND APPEARED TO BE CONFIDENT IN HIS NEW ROLE OF FOREIGN MINISTER. MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY WAS VERY CONGENIAL. FRANCK ACCEPTED CRITICISM ON EXPROPRIATION ISSUE MATTER-OF-FACTLY AND LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS DETERMINED TO GET GOCAR TO TAKE ACTION. THE URGENCY OF THE GSP QUESTION REQUIRES THAT DEPT AND MISSION FOLLOW UP CLOSELY AND CONTINUE TO URGE GOCAR TO ADOPT AND ANNOUNCE ADEQUATE COMPENSATION PLAN.

ALTHOUGH CLEAR MAJORITY INTERAGENCY GROUP ON EXPROPRIATION PREPARED GIVE REASONABLE PERIOD TO CAR TO INITIATE CONCRETE STEPS LEADING TO RESOLUTION PENDING ISSUE, EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW-UP AS APPROPRIATE TO ENSURE CURRENT MOMENTUM NOT DISSIPATED. MINIMUM REQUIRED CAR STEPS AT THIS TIME WOULD BE QUANTIFIED CAR REACTION TO TEXACO/MOBIL CLAIMS. KISSINGER

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